



**GROUP DECISION AND NEGOTIATION**

**GDN SECTION OF INFORMS**

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# Letter from the President



Dear Members of the GDN section,

I would like to welcome you to the seventh issue of our GDN newsletter. Several activities in the GDN Section have been ongoing. The Council has made changes to the Bylaws for the Gregory Kersten GDN Journal Best Paper Award and for the GDN Springer Best Paper Award. The procedures for managing these have been improved based on past experience. Also, the Council has concluded and approved a new Award: INFORMS GDN Appreciation for Outstanding Service Award. The next Newsletter will present full details about this Award and the nominee for 2023 who will receive it at the 2023 GDN conference. By the way, the organization of our 2023 conference is going well.

In 2023 I hope we can finally meet in person again. In 2020 we had to cancel the GDN conference and then we had two years of holding the conference in virtual format. Next year, the GDN conference will be held in Tokyo, Japan, from June 11 to 15. There is still time to submit your contributions to GDN 2023, please have a look at the conference site: [www.gdnconference.org/gdn2023/](http://www.gdnconference.org/gdn2023/). I believe GDN 2023 Tokyo will be a great opportunity to reunite our community, face-to-face again, after three years, and thus to be able to exploit all the extra advantages of in-person meetings. I look forward to seeing all of you in Tokyo in 2023!

Annually, the GDN Section has been hosting invited sessions within the GDN Cluster at the INFORMS Annual Meeting. In 2022, the INFORMS Annual Meeting was held in Indianapolis (Indiana), from October 16 to 19. For the fourth consecutive year, the GDN cluster hosted invited sessions. Two such sessions were held at the 2022 Annual Meeting: MCGDM: Multicriteria Group Decision Making Models; and Negotiation Models and Analysis. For 2023 a GDN cluster for the INFORMS Annual Meeting in Phoenix is being set up and submissions are invited for sessions and of abstracts from GDN Section members. Please get in touch with the co-Chairs of the Cluster.

A very sad piece of news from 2022. In September of this year, our community suffered a grievous loss. Love Ekenberg, one of the world's top researchers in decision-making, passed away after a period of illness. On behalf of the GDN community, I wish to record that Love's contributions to the multicriteria decision-making and group-decision making communities were truly outstanding. He had a special role in the organization of the 13th international annual meeting on GDN in Stockholm, Sweden in 2013, chaired by Bilyana Martinovski, on which occasion he was one of the distinguished keynote speakers. The most important of all his many qualities is that Love was always present and an unfailingly outgoing and convivial fellow. We will certainly miss his friendship. A tribute in Memoriam to him is included in this newsletter.

As President of the INFORMS Section on Group Decision and Negotiation during the last two years (2021-2022), I would like to thank the current officers of the Executive Council (2021-2022) for their continuous wholehearted support to the Section: Liping Fang as Vice-President for Meetings, Pascale Zarate as Vice-President for Membership and Publications, Danielle Costa Morais as Secretary and Tomasz Wachowicz as Treasurer. I am once again grateful to Eduarda Asfora Frej, who has been coordinating and editing the newsletter since the first issue.

Also, I would like to welcome the new Council who will start their activities in 2023: Liping Fang as President of the Section, Pascale Zarate as Vice-President for Meetings, Tomasz Wachowicz as Vice-President for Membership and Publications, Ginger Y. Ke as Secretary and Danielle Costa Morais as Treasurer.

Finally, I would like to wish you all a healthy and happy new year. I hope 2023 comes with health, happiness, success, and prosperity for all of us.

With best regards,

***Adiel Teixeira de Almeida***

# 1. SOCIETY NEWS

## *Group Decision and Negotiation Conference*

### *Call for papers: GDN 2023*

You are cordially invited to submit papers to the 23rd International Conference on Group Decision and Negotiation, GDN 2023, 11-15 June 2023, Tokyo, Japan. GDN 2023 will be held in the hybrid format of in-person presentations and virtual presentations by the choice of presenters.



The field of Group Decision and Negotiation focuses on decision processes with at least two participants and a common goal. Such processes are complex and self-organising and constitute multi-participant, multi-criteria, ill-structured, dynamic, creative, and often evolutionary problems. Major approaches include:

1. Information systems, in particular negotiation support systems (NSSs) and group decision support systems (GDSs)
2. Cognitive and behavioural sciences as applied to group decision and negotiation
3. Conflict analysis and resolution
4. Applied game theory, experiment and social choice
5. Artificial intelligence
6. Management science as it relates to group decision making and negotiation.
7. Many research initiatives combine two or more of these approaches.

Group Decision and Negotiation can be performed in an intra-organisational as well as an inter-organisational context. Both consist of complex processes, including preference elicitation, proposals and counter-proposals, preference adjustment, and choice. Communication and decision making are the two key process steps in Group Decision and Negotiation and thus require sophisticated support in many ways.

Application areas of Group Decision and Negotiation include intra-organisational and inter-organisational coordination (as in operations management and integrated design, production, finance, marketing and distribution functions, such as coordination of all phases of the life cycle of a product), computer-supported collaborative work and meetings, electronic negotiations including negotiating agents and negotiation support systems, labour-management negotiations, inter-

organisational, intercultural negotiations, environmental negotiations, and many others.

Papers can be submitted as full papers to be published either in Conference Proceedings by Springer in the Book Series of LNBIP (Lecture Notes in Business Information Processing) or as abstracts/extended abstracts/full papers to be published in Local Proceedings.

In the Local Proceedings the authors will keep the copyright. After the reviewing process, the authors could choose to replace their full paper in the Local Proceedings for abstract only. However, to be considered for the Conference Awards evaluation process, those papers should be available as full papers in the Local Proceedings, which will be on a stick that is given only to conference participants, at the beginning of the conference.

The topics are organized in conference streams that can be found on the website (<http://gdnconference.org/gdn2023/streams/>). Research in Group Decision and Negotiation has continued to expand, and many new research directions have been proposed. At GDN conferences, we encourage researchers to present research in Group Decision and Negotiation even if (in fact, especially if) it does not fit into any of the above areas. We particularly invite Bachelor and Master students to submit their work to the dedicated Student Stream.

#### Important dates:

1. Deadline for the submission to the Springer Proceedings: **January 31, 2023.**
2. Deadline for the submission to the Local Proceedings: **January 31, 2023.**
3. Deadline for the submission to the Doctoral Consortium: **March 16, 2023.**

*Rudolf Vetschera* (Honorary Chair)  
*Masahide Horita and Liping Fang* (General Chairs)  
*Yu Maemura and Pascale Zarate* (Program Chairs)

## ***GDN 2024: Location and dates***

The 24th International Conference on Group Decision and Negotiation (GDN 2024) will be held in Porto, Portugal, by End of May - beginning of June 2024 (precise dates will be announced). It will be a joint conference with the EURO Working Group on Decision Support Systems.

*Pascale Zarate*  
Vice-President for Meetings of the GDN Section for the term of 2023-2024

## ***Group Decision and Negotiation Cluster at the INFORMS Annual Meeting***

### ***INFORMS Annual Meeting 2022***

The INFORMS 2022 Annual Meeting was held in Indianapolis (Indiana), from October 16 to 19, 2022. After two years in a different conference format (virtual and/or hybrid), we finally could meet in person again in 2022. In 2022, for the fourth consecutive year, the GDN cluster hosted invited sessions at the INFORMS Annual Meeting:



1. MCGDM: Multicriteria Group Decision Making Models;
2. Negotiation Models and Analysis.

We strongly encourage GDN community members to submit their work and to organize sessions in the GDN cluster at the INFORMS Annual Meeting.

### ***INFORMS Annual Meeting 2023***

The INFORMS 2023 Annual Meeting will be held in Phoenix (Arizona), from October 15 to 18, 2023. The 2023 INFORMS Annual Meeting is a great opportunity to connect and network with the more than 5,000 INFORMS members, students, prospective employers and employees, and academic and industry experts who compose the INFORMS community.



We cordially invite you to join us for the GDN cluster at the 2023 INFORMS Annual Meeting, chaired by Liping Fang, Adiel de Almeida and Danielle Morais.

#### **DEADLINES FOR 2023**

- Cluster chairs to invite sessions chairs: **April 12, 2023**
- Session chairs to invite speakers: **May 9, 2023**
- Presenters to enter abstracts: **May 16, 2023**

To arrange a Session, please send the name and email address of the appointed Session Chair to [dcmorais@insid.org.br](mailto:dcmorais@insid.org.br).

We hope to see you in Phoenix 2023!

**Danielle Morais**  
*On behalf of the GDN Cluster Chairs*

## *A report on the GDN Elections 2023*

In accordance with Article 8.5 of the bylaws, which stipulates that the current Vice President for Meetings will become President, and the current Vice President for Membership and Publications will become Vice President for Meetings, the nomination Committee for the GDN Elections 2023 composed by Rudolf Vetschera (chair), Colin Eden and Marc Kilgour, invited nominations for the positions of Vice President for Membership and Publications, Secretary, and Treasurer.

The nominations received were sent to INFORMS and after a period of voting in the electronic ballot sent by INFORMS to the community, It can be announced the result of the GDN Elections 2023:

- *Vice President for Membership and Publications:* **Tomasz Wachowicz** (University of Economics in Katowice, Poland)
- *Secretary:* **Ginger Y. Ke** (Memorial University of Newfoundland, Canada)
- *Treasurer:* **Danielle Costa Morais** (Universidade Federal de Pernambuco, Brazil)

All nominees have indicated their willingness to serve in the respective functions.

**Danielle Morais**  
*Secretary of the GDN Section*



## 2. RECENT PUBLICATIONS

This section presents a short list of recent publications of members of the GDN community who expressed their interest in mention their publications in this newsletter. This list is by no means exhaustive. If you want your recent publications to appear in the next issue of the GDN newsletter, please send an email to [newsletter@gdnconference.org](mailto:newsletter@gdnconference.org).

- Akin Ojelabi, L., Zeleznikow, J., de Koker, L. and Abedi, F. (2023). Dispute Resolution Practitioners and Online Technologies During the Covid-19 Pandemic – Findings from Empirical Research, to appear Monash University Law Review 49(1).
- Albano, A., García-Lapresta, J.L., Plaia, A., Sciandra, M. (2022). A family of distances for preference-approvals. Annals of Operations Research. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10479-022-05008-4>.
- Wilson-Evered, E. and Zeleznikow, J. (2021). Online Family Dispute Resolution: Evidence for Creating the Ideal People and Technology Interface (Vol. 45). Springer Nature.
- Murtaza, M., Cheng, C.T., Fard, M. and Zeleznikow, J. (2022). The importance of transparency in naming conventions, designs, and operations of safety features: from modern ADAS to fully autonomous driving functions. AI & SOCIETY, 1-11.
- Nedelescu, D. (2022). Fairness and Arbitration Mechanisms. Review of Behavioral Economics. *Forthcoming*.
- Schmitz, A. J., Akin Ojelabi, L., & Zeleznikow, J. (2022). Researching Online Dispute Resolution to Expand Access to Justice. Ohio State Legal Studies Research Paper, (680), 269-303.
- Schmitz, A., Zeleznikow, J. (2022). Intelligent Legal Tech to Empower Self-Represented Litigants. Columbia Science and Technology Law Review, 23:142-190.
- Sourdin, T. and Zeleznikow, J. (2020). Courts, Mediation and COVID-19. Australian Business Law Review, 48(2):138-158.
- Thiele-Evans, L., Pepper, B., Zeleznikow, J., Foster, N. and Sourdin, T. (2021). Navigating a New Terrain: Developing Autonomous Vehicle Liability Pathways in Australia in Light of International Experience, 29(2), pp.79-100.

- Thiele-Evans, L., Pepper, B., Zeleznikow, J., Foster, N. and Sourdin, T. (2021). Navigating a new terrain: Developing autonomous vehicle liability pathways in Australia in light of international experience. Australian Law.
- Welsh, D. (2023). Entrepreneurial Family Business, Kendall-Hunt Publishing, <https://he.kendallhunt.com/product/entrepreneurial-family-business-survival-success>
- Yan, H. And Zeleznikow, J. (2023). The Appropriate Use of AI In Law: Investigating the Liability of Artificial Intelligence in Legal Decision-Making. To appear in ANU Journal of Law and Technology, 3(2)
- Zeleznikow, J. (2020). The challenges of using Online Dispute Resolution to support Self Represented Litigants, Journal of Internet Law, 23(7): 3-14.
- Zeleznikow, J. (2021). Using Artificial Intelligence to provide Intelligent Dispute Resolution Support. Group Decis Negot 30(4):789-812

### 3. GDN JOURNAL

#### *From the Editors-in-Chief of the GDN Journal*

We are happy to announce the Special Issue "New Trends in Intelligent Group Decision Making and Consensus Modelling" with a deadline in July 2023. Guest editors are Francisco Chiclana, Yucheng Dong, Enrique Herrera-Viedma, Cong-Cong Li and Zhen Zhang. Further information will be published on the GDN website in due course and a Call for Papers will be sent to all GDN newsletter subscribers.

We would like to take this opportunity to encourage more Special Issues to be proposed. Feel free to contact us with proposals, questions, or first ideas.

Happy Holidays to everyone!

**Mareike Schoop** (m.schoop@uni-hohenheim.de)  
**GJ de Vreede** (gdevreede@usf.edu)

## 4. IMPRINTS

**Eduarda Frej:** [newsletter@gdnconference.org](mailto:newsletter@gdnconference.org); [eafrej@cdsid.org.br](mailto:eafrej@cdsid.org.br)

We are working on publishing the newsletter of the Group Decision and Negotiation Section of INFORMS two times a year, July and December. The deadline for contributions for the July issue is June 30, and the issue is intended to be published by the end of July. The deadline for the December issue is November 30, and the issue is intended to be published by the end of December. Contributions can be sent at any time to the editor (please see the address provided above).

# In Memoriam



## **Love Ekenberg (1962 – 2022)**

On September 19, 2022, Love Ekenberg, one of the world's leading researchers into decision theory and analysis, left us after a period of illness. He was active until the very end, among other things with an online course on decision theory and analysis in a digital transformation context. That course is aimed at doctoral students worldwide.

Love's focus was on how mathematics and logical systems thinking can contribute to better decisions and increased societal benefit in a variety of seemingly disparate societal areas such as nuclear energy, financial risk assessment, and community planning, all of which are group decisions - hence his deeply rooted interest in group decision making. Love's work embodies the spirit of freedom that characterises, and in many ways is a prerequisite for, the advancement of society.

His educational and scientific leadership was based on the conviction that open knowledge sharing and free thinking are the bases for the development of society. In addition, he was deeply committed to addressing society's major challenges in a democratic way, supported by logical, objective, and socially sustainable decisions, in Sweden as well as internationally.

Love Ekenberg was a researcher who was not afraid to take on difficult tasks. As a UNESCO-appointed professor to Africa, he was leading the effort to build a system of large-scale higher education in southern Africa that will multiply the population's access to decision-making knowledge and, in the long term, is also expected to boost the region's economic development. Last but not least, Love was always highly

appreciated and an extremely fun colleague to work with regardless of tasks. From his open-hearted character and his including sense of humour, he quickly made friends regardless of nationality, background, and age.

For GDN, us colleagues feel that Love has given us hints of the right scientific and moral direction to take, and he leaves a very large void. Thank you, Love, for all that you have given to us as a decision-making community.

***Mats Danielson*** (mats.danielson@su.se)